

REMARKS

A. Background

Claims 1-21 were pending in the application at the time of the Office Action. The Office Action rejected claims 15-21 as being indefinite. Claims 1-7 and 10-13 were rejected as being anticipated by cited art. Claims 8, 9, and 14 were either allowed or objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. By this response applicant has amended claims 1, 9, 10, 15 and 16, and cancelled claims 7 and 8. As such, claims 1-6 and 9-21 are presented for the Examiner's consideration in light of the following remarks.

B. Proposed Claim Amendments

By this response, Applicant has amended claims 1, 9, 10, 15 and 16. Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended herein to incorporate the limitations of claims 7 and 8. Claims 9, 10, 15, and 16 have been amended to further clarify the invention and correct formal matters cited by the Office Action. As such, the claims as presently constituted are supported by the specification as originally filed. In view of the foregoing, applicant submits that the amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested.

C. Rejection on the Merits

Paragraphs 1-3 of the Office Action rejected claims 15-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically the Office Action asserts that there is insufficient antecedent basis for specific limitations in the claims. Applicant respectfully

submits that in light of amendments to claims 15 and 16 set forth herein, the objection has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Office Action rejected claims 1-7 and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Great Britain Application No. GB 2 341 852 A. As a result of amendments made herein, Applicant submits that the rejected claims are in allowable condition, as detailed below.

Paragraph 6 of the Office Action objected to claims 8 and 9 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As described above, applicant has herein amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claims 7 and 8. As such, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is allowable for at least the reasons that claim 8 was considered allowable in the Office Action.

In connection with the foregoing, Applicant respectfully notes that an objection, by definition, concerns only the form of the claim(s) (as distinguished from the substance of the claim) with respect to which the objection has been posed. *See* MPEP §§ 706.01, 608.01(n) (emphasis added). Thus, simply rewriting a dependent claim in the manner suggested by the Examiner constitutes only a change to the format of the claim and, without more, has no effect with regard to the substance of the rewritten claim.

Because Applicant has made no change to claim 1, (corresponding to old claim 8) other than to rewrite the claim in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, Applicant respectfully submits that no change has been made herein to the substance of the claim and, further, that the claim, as rewritten herein, is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-6 and 10-13 each depend from claim 1 and incorporate the limitations thereof. Accordingly, applicant asserts that claims 2-6 and 10-13 are also in condition for allowance.

Paragraph 8 of the Office Action stated that claims 15-21 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the indefiniteness rejection. As described above, applicant has herein amended claims 15 and 16 to overcome the indefiniteness rejection. As such, Applicant submits that claims 15-21 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 14 was allowed in the Office Action and thus is not discussed herein.

No other objections or rejections were set forth in the Office Action.

D. Conclusion

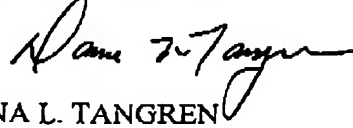
Applicant notes that this response does not discuss every reason why the claims of the present application are distinguished over the cited art. Most notably, applicant submits that many if not all of the dependent claims are independently distinguishable over the cited art. Applicant has merely submitted those arguments which it considers sufficient to clearly distinguish the claims over the cited art.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-6 and 9-21 as amended and presented herein.

In the event there remains any impediment to allowance of the claims which could be clarified in a telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate such an interview with the undersigned.

Dated this 7th day April 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



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